

Bishop Hogan Visits the Missions: SELMA, ALA.



Bishop Hogan and children from the day care center at the Freedom Quilting Bee.

Selma Sisters Today

This year marks the 36th year of southern mission service for the Sisters of St. Joseph. During these years, and particularly in recent ones, many changes have occurred in the Sisters' life and work. Of particular note is the present diversity of apostolates, with even a wide variety of activities within each apostolate.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

The Selma community now includes a pastoral assistant, Sister Maureen Finn. Sister joined the Edmundite mission in September 1975 and is helping Father Eymard Galligan in serving the Selma parishioners. Father Galligan has no priest assistant and Sister Maureen performs a number of necessary parish duties. Among these are home and hospital visiting. Sister also performs certain clerical and administrative tasks, and she directs the CCD program for primary and intermediate pupils.

RURAL APOSTOLATE AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Sister Josette Capozzi performs a variety of mission services. Some of her duties take her to a small parish in Wilcox County. Here, on Sundays, she lends assistance to the non-resident pastor and teaches religion to the children. In the same county, in a deprived rural area, Sister Josette visits and assists needy families.

Sister Josette also works with youth.

EDUCATION

In 1970 the two Selma Catholic parishes, one black and the other white, were consolidated. Selma now has a single parish church, under a new name, Queen of Peace.

Sister Albertine Deveraux, who joined the Selma sisters last September, is the parish secretary.

BUSINESS WORK

Most of Sister Catherine Martin's contribution is in the nature of office work. Sister spends four days a week working as correspondence secretary at the Edmundite Mission Office, and is associate editor of the mission publication.

On one day of each week Sister Catherine travels to Alberta, 35 miles from Selma. Here, far out in the rural area, is a small, black sewing cooperative, the Freedom Quilting Bee. Sister takes care of clerical work there and assists in the formulation of business policies. In the trunk of her car might be clothing and other items for poor families or articles for use by the quilting center day care center.

CONVENT LIFE

Even convent life has changed. Formerly the convent housed only Sisters of St. Joseph. Today it is also the home of a Mercy Sister.

The combined convent arrangement is a happy one. House government and duties are shared. Also shared are religious exercises of the Sisters and recreation activities.

In the past 36 years, the world of Selma Sisters has undergone considerable change. However, the mission challenge remains. There still is much work to be accomplished. Then, too, each day holds a measure of difficulty and frustration.

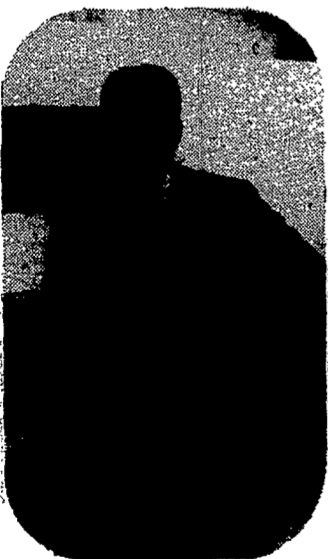
To all who have helped further the mission apostolate in the South the Sisters of Selma send a sincere and warm



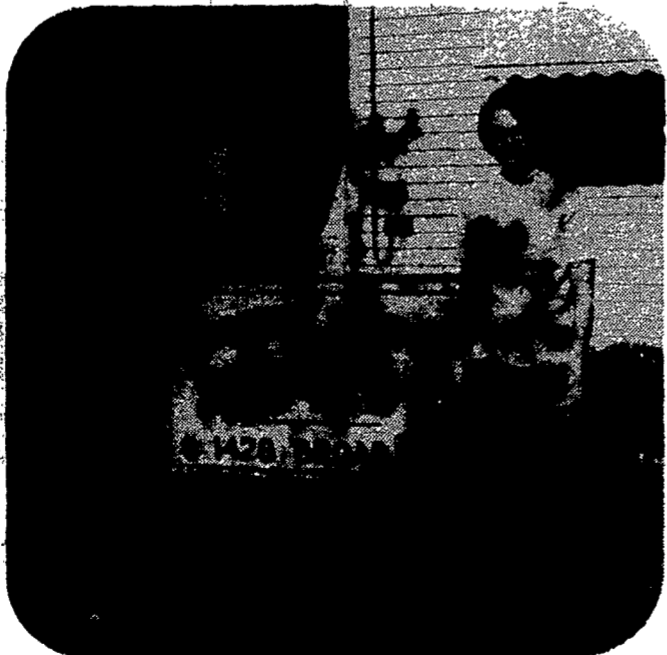
Sister Catherine at her desk in the Edmundite Missions office.



Sister Albertine is the secretary at Queen of Peace parish.



Edwin Moss runs the computer program at the Edmundite Mission House where mission appeals and information about Edmundite missions are printed.



Sister Catherine and Sister Maureen at the mission office.



Edmundite mission receptionist Mrs. Vivian Myers says that 18 persons are employed there and that the main work is distribution of literature about the Edmundites.

Photos by Anthony J. Costello